

## CLAIMS

1. A novel polypeptide having water channel activity  
which has the amino acid sequence, within the molecule thereof,  
5 shown in the sequence listing under SEQ ID NO:1.

2. A nucleotide sequence which codes for a polypeptide  
having, within the molecule thereof, the amino acid sequence  
shown in the sequence listing under SEQ ID NO:1 and having water  
10 channel activity.

3. The DNA sequence shown in the sequence listing under  
SEQ DI NO:2.

15 4. A polypeptide having water channel activity which has  
the amino acid sequence, within the molecule thereof, encoded  
by the nucleotide No.173 to No.1198 of the nucleotide sequence  
shown in the sequence listing under SEQ ID NO:2.

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